

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

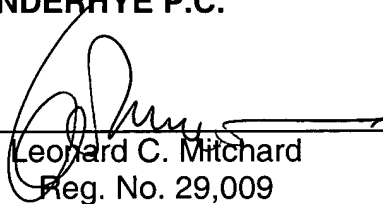
The above amendments are to insert a cross-reference to the PCT application upon which this National Phase application is based, and to revise the claims from the originally published format to correct/remove multiple dependencies. Claims 1-29 have been cancelled and new claims 30-58 are added. In addition, the Abstract is presented on a separate sheet attached to this amendment.

Applicants await an early action on the merits. If the Examiner finds this case is not now in condition for allowance and believes that an interview prior to first action would be helpful in focussing and/or resolving issues, applicants request the Examiner to contact their representative at the telephone number listed below to arrange a telephonic or personal interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of inhibiting scale formation in a subterranean formation comprising:

(a) injecting a suspension comprising particles of a controlled release scale inhibitor suspended in an aqueous medium into a formation through an injection well wherein the particles have a mean diameter of less than 10 microns, preferably less than 5 microns, more preferably less than 1 micron; (b) allowing the suspension to percolate through the subterranean formation towards a production well; and (c) controllably releasing the scale inhibitor from the particles in the near well bore region of the production well.

Suitably, the particles of the controlled release scale inhibitor comprise an esterifiable scale inhibitor cross-linked with a polyol via ester cross-links.